



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 7, 2007
Week Ending: May 6, 2007
CWP WA-CW1907

Cool Weather Persists but Planting Continues as Strawberries Began to Bloom

Field crops

There were 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork. There was rain across most of the state with colder than normal temperatures reported on the western side of the state. Stripe rust was reported in Walla Walla County and wheat producers were busy spraying fungicides. Field corn and potato planting continued. The first cutting of alfalfa has begun in the southeastern area of the state. On the western side, some operators have cut grass early to make haylage due to slow grass growth and lack of baled hay. Retail nurseries continued to report strong demand for bedding plants.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apples and blueberries continued to bloom and strawberries are beginning to bloom. The effects of frost damage to raspberries resulting from cold weather in February and March was reported. Market farmers were harvesting spring garlic, asparagus and lettuce. Sweet corn and onion planting has begun.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 75% good and 5% excellent. Ranchers continued with branding and moving cattle to summer pastures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.5
Last Week	5.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	12	75	13
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	15	79	4
Subsoil	1	19	77	3
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	21	71	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	96	4
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	91	0
Hay & Roughage	21	22	55	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	97	80	87	95
Spring Wheat Emerged	65	40	54	72
Winter Wheat Headed	2	NA	9	7
Barley Planted	97	85	84	90
Barley Emerged	54	35	50	66
Potatoes Planted	74	59	86	86
Potatoes Emerged	44	21	42	42
Corn Planted	52	27	57	56
Corn Emerged	27	16	29	16
Dry Edible Beans Planted	75	50	57	51
Proc. Green Peas Planted	68	42	89	84
Dry Peas Planted	85	60	61	75
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	2	NA	8	7

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	6	22	59	11
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	5	78	16
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	35	60	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	85	9
Barley Dryland	0	1	30	65	4
Barley Irrigated	0	3	3	85	9
Potatoes	0	0	46	54	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	52	48	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: The weekend was cool and cloudy with no precipitation.

Grays Harbor: The spring tapestry of color that continued to unfold across the rural landscape took on earthen tones as ag producers continued field cultivation. Commercial U-Pick blueberry farms were busy planting new fields in order to meet increasing consumer demand. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations and applying post and pre-emergent herbicides. Livestock producers were harvesting forage fields for haylage. Retail plant stands reported excellent sales of vegetable transplants. Although temperatures remained on the cool side, ag producers welcomed drier conditions with fewer rain showers.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Even though precipitation for the past 30 days has been less than average, the frequency of showers has been sufficient to keep farmers from starting fieldwork at full force. The forecast calls for warmer, drier weather, so planting should be able to get underway soon.

Mason: A very mild week of weather brought with it many busy farmers. Plenty of fieldwork got done, and many crops were getting their first harvest. Farmer's Markets opened over the weekend with much fanfare. Livestock producers were enjoying good pasture conditions. Market farmers were harvesting spring garlic, asparagus, lettuce, and more. Egg production was picking up with the longer days, and poultry producers were gearing up for pastured broilers.

Mason (2nd Report): Overall, the weather was windy, cool, and overcast with precipitation in the form of hail and thunderstorms. Fieldwork was done between weather events. Pasture growth was good.

Pierce/S. King: The fields continued to be wet in some areas. The weather has been cool with temperatures below average. Producers were still a couple of weeks behind schedule. There were no reports of any unusual conditions or crop damage.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 56 degrees with 0.4 of an inch of precipitation. With light

rain most of the week, planting was touch and go. Potato farmers in the Valley have about 20 percent of this year's crop in the ground. There have been limited raspberry plantings due to a lower commodity price last year. Fresh Skagit Valley strawberries are about a month away. This year's pea crop was going into the ground with a lot less ground preparation than potatoes. As soon as the crop begins poking out of the ground, cultivation, weed, and pest management will begin.

Snohomish/King: Scattered showers were received throughout the week. Snow, hail and rain was received mid-week. Fieldwork continued as conditions permitted. Planting was underway in drier fields. Manure spreading and green chopping was underway. Apple and blueberry blossom continued. Strawberries were beginning to bloom.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of good weather to continue field cultivation. Livestock producers were cutting the first crop of forage destined to become haylage. Turfgrass growers were kept busy mowing, fertilizing, and applying herbicides to established fields. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations and applying pre-emergent herbicides. Vegetable crop growers were preparing fields for warm season vegetable crop planting. Blueberry growers continued applying fungicides to established fields. Some growers reported plant development was lagging behind normal. Temperatures have reached 70 degrees only one day this spring! Retail nurseries and garden stores continued to report strong demand for bedding plants.

Whatcom: Mild temperatures during the week averaged 54 degrees. Light to moderate rain was received during the week. A few areas were still too wet to farm. Manure applications continued. Many acres of grass were being cut for silage. More frost damage was reported to raspberries from the cold weather in February and March. Otherwise, undamaged berries were looking healthy with plenty of growth. Producers were hoping for a drier week so they can get into fields to finish planting crops.

Central

Benton: The mornings were still very cool in the northern part of the county. Crops were progressing well.

Benton (2nd Report): Field conditions remained moist in dry land wheat areas, and applications of fungicides continued for control and suppression of rust. Freezing temperatures were reported on May 3 and 4. There were also reports of fruit damage and the possibility of winter wheat damage as the crop begins to head out.

Franklin: A short-lived but heavy thunderstorm brought rain with some lightning on Friday, May 4. No crop damage was reported.

Grant: Precipitation over the weekend helped moisture conditions considerably. About 0.30 of an inch was received, which will help dry land wheat acres, range and pasture. Corn and potato planting continued, while pea planting wound down. Onion planting just began, and sweet corn planting will begin soon.

Kittitas: Warm temperatures and long days were typical of the week's weather. Producers fixed fences, irrigated, moved cattle, and controlled broadleaf weeds.

Okanogan: Rain came during the week, with some areas reporting 0.5 of an inch or more. Hail was also received.

Yakima: Cooler than normal evenings have made it difficult to set codling moth biofix through trap catches, but phenology models indicate that biofix has occurred over the past week throughout most of the county. Green fruit thinning activities were taking place throughout the Valley.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 10 degrees below normal to 3 degrees above normal, with 0.17 of an inch of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin: The county basked in warmer weather most of the week, with variable rainfall helping crops and pastures. Additional rain will be needed soon to avoid stressing crops.

Asotin/Garfield: Showers early in the week provided needed moisture for continued crop growth and development. Crops were in good condition in most areas.

Garfield: The weather continued to be warm and dry. Cows were moved to mountains for summer grazing. Wheat was growing. A good rain without wind is needed.

Lincoln: April was a very dry month. Warm weather and a soaking rain are needed.

Stevens: Much needed rain was received mid-week. Warm temperatures over the weekend made for good growing conditions for grass, grain, and alfalfa. Ranchers continued branding and moving cattle to pastures.

Walla Walla: A nice rain supported the already good crop. Rain and warm temperatures have improved the pastures. Alfalfa was close to cutting in early areas.

Whitman: Rain made a welcome return to the Palouse, with most areas reporting 0.25 of an inch or better. Additional rains are needed as April's total was about half of normal. Crops were still in good shape with good subsoil moisture conditions.

Whitman (2nd Report): Stripe rust was found in Walla Walla and a couple of areas near Washtucna.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 6, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	35	59	50	-2	7	-7	0	+0	0.21	-0.35	4	31.74	+1.87	106	141
Everett	40	57	49	-3	4	-15	0	+0	0.29	-0.27	3	29.13	-0.71	98	138
Hoquiam	38	58	50	-2	10	-8	0	+0	0.92	+0.09	4	65.33	+4.77	108	159
Kelso	36	63	51	-2	9	-12	0	+0	0.67	+0.04	4	37.83	-2.17	95	121
Olympia	34	60	49	-2	6	-8	0	+0	0.84	+0.28	4	53.03	+7.79	117	145
Seattle Tacoma	41	62	51	-2	10	-12	0	+0	0.65	+0.23	5	40.93	+8.48	126	134
Shelton	37	61	49	-5	5	-22	0	+0	0.41	-0.25	4	71.68	+12.56	121	152
Tacoma WA AP	35	60	49	-4	7	-17	0	+0	0.49	-0.02	4	37.15	+2.39	107	134
Vancouver WA	36	65	52	-1	16	-6	0	+0	0.69	+0.13	3	35.30	-0.45	99	123
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	32	69	52	+2	21	+0	0	+0	0.29	+0.16	2	7.66	+0.34	105	72
Omak AP	29	70	50	-2	11	-7	0	+0	0.69	+0.35	2	7.53	-3.19	70	52
Stampede Pass	29	51	38	-1	0	+0	0	+0	0.78	-0.11	6	92.03	+20.08	128	153
Wenatchee	36	70	53	-3	25	-17	0	-2	0.31	+0.17	1	7.02	+0.36	105	48
Yakima AP	27	73	50	-4	17	-15	0	+0	0.17	+0.10	2	6.55	+0.06	101	54
NORTHEAST															
Colville	29	70	49	-2	14	-4	0	+0	0.52	+0.10	4	12.00	-4.14	74	88
Deer Park	24	67	47	-4	7	-11	0	+0	0.33	-0.02	2	15.59	+1.21	108	95
Republic	26	67	47	-2	1	-6	0	+0	0.66	+0.34	3	11.48	+0.67	106	65
Spokane AP	32	67	49	-2	11	-5	0	+0	0.24	-0.04	2	12.26	-0.41	97	87
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	34	72	53	-4	27	-19	0	-6	0.25	+0.17	2	6.17	+0.44	108	59
Moses Lake	32	72	52	-5	17	-29	0	-6	0.12	+0.04	2	5.29	-0.44	92	58
Quincy	35	70	53	-3	23	-17	0	-1	0.24	+0.16	1	6.76	+0.52	108	46
Ritzville	29	67	48	-4	5	-14	0	+0	0.14	-0.07	2	9.37	+0.27	103	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	37	75	55	-6	34	-34	0	-14	0.17	+0.10	3	4.05	-1.30	76	45
Pasco	33	75	53	-6	22	-36	0	-7	0.44	+0.33	2	6.43	+0.36	106	65
Pullman	28	65	46	-4	0	-14	0	+0	0.28	-0.07	1	14.37	-2.39	86	92
Walla Walla Rgn	40	71	54	-3	29	-16	0	-5	0.46	+0.08	2	15.86	+0.00	100	82
Whitman Mission	33	73	51	-4	17	-20	0	+0	0.38	+0.10	2	11.42	+0.50	105	86
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	34	72	54	-2	34	-6	2	+2	0.28	+0.00	3	7.29	-1.37	84	71

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006
DFN = Departure From Normal.

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>
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